

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended)      A method of producing a coated preparation, which comprises coating a core containing an active ingredient with a dispersion of pioglitazone hydrochloride in an organic solvent, which organic solvent contains polyvinylpyrrolidone as a coating base soluble in organic solvents.
- 2.-3. (Canceled).
4. (Previously Presented)      The method of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is a therapeutic agent for diabetes.
5. (Previously Presented)      The method of claim 4, wherein the therapeutic agent for diabetes is a biguanide.
6. (Previously Presented)      The method of claim 5, wherein the biguanide is metformin hydrochloride.
7. (Previously Presented)      The method of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is an alcohol or a ketone.
8. (Previously Presented)      The method of claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is ethanol.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Currently Amended)      A method for improving dissolution of pioglitazone hydrochloride from a preparation coated with pioglitazone hydrochloride, which comprises, when producing said preparation, coating a core containing an active ingredient with a dispersion

of pioglitazone hydrochloride in an organic solvent, which organic solvent contains polyvinylpyrrolidone as a coating base soluble in organic solvents.

11.-12. (Canceled).

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained coated preparation

(i) shows elution of not less than 50% of pioglitazone hydrochloride in 15 minutes in a dissolution test by a rotating basket method using a hydrochloric acid-potassium chloride buffer (pH 2.0) as a test solution at 37 °C, 100 rpm, or

(ii) shows elution of not less than 50% of pioglitazone hydrochloride in 15 minutes in a dissolution test by a paddle method using a hydrochloric acid-potassium chloride buffer (pH 2.0) as a test solution at 37 °C, 50 rpm.

14. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the obtained coated preparation

(i) shows elution of not less than 50% of pioglitazone hydrochloride in 15 minutes in a dissolution test by a rotating basket method using a hydrochloric acid-potassium chloride buffer (pH 2.0) as a test solution at 37 °C, 100 rpm, or

(ii) shows elution of not less than 50% of pioglitazone hydrochloride in 15 minutes in a dissolution test by a paddle method using a hydrochloric acid-potassium chloride buffer (pH 2.0) as a test solution at 37 °C, 50 rpm.